THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, the 17th February 1959.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Employees of the State Transport Department

* 50-A *Q.*—VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the employees of the State Transport Department went on strike on 2nd February 1959; and

(*b*) if so, the period for which they were on strike and the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, the incident was between the conductor and the driver of a vehicle and the passengers. How is it that all the conductors and the drivers were made to sit at the Police station in the night with the result that they could not go to work early in the morning at 5 o'clock the next day?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The concerned conductor got the bus to the Transport House. Then, the enquiry had to be conducted at the Police station with regard to the incident. Then all of them went to the Police station and the enquiry did not conclude till early morning. So, they could not start the next day's work at 5 o'clock.

VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : 2–2–1959 திங்கட்கிழமை அன்று வழக்கமாகக் காலையில் 5 மணிக்கு ஓடக்கூடிய பஸ்கள் ஓடவில்லை என்பது உண்மையா ? எவ்வளவு நேரம் ஓடவில்லை ? என் ஓடவில்லை ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : 5 மணிக்கு ஓட வேண்டிய பஸ்களெல்லாம் 7 மணிக்கு எடுத்து ஓட்டப்பட்டன. காரணம் அதற்கு முதல் நாள் இரவு 4, 5 பிரயாணிகளுக்கும், கண்டக்டர்களுக்கும் சண்டை வந்து விட்டது. அந்தச் சண்டையின் காரணமாக இரவு எல்லோரும் போலீஸ் ஸ்டேஷனுக்குப் போனார்கள். அந்த விசாரணை விடியற்காலை வரையிலும் நடந்தது. ஆகவே, அதற்குப் பின்பு பஸ்களைத் தயார் செய்து எடுத்துக் கொண்டு போவதற்குச் சற்றுக் கால தாமதம் ஆயிற்று.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Arising out of the reply of the Hon. Minister, may I know whether it is a good thing to allow all conductors and drivers to go to the Police station? After all, the

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incident was an isolated one and between the conductor, the driver and a few passengers and this crowding would have led to the possibility of clash and other incidents.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I agree that it is not a good thing to do. But I was only explaining how it happened.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Have the Government got any rules to prevent a recurrence of such incidents?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Certainly, courtesy shown by the passengers and the traffic staff will solve the problem. But, in this case, I am afrai the fault has been on both sides and it is not possible to put the blame on any one particular person.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : What further action has been taken against the parties concerned? Has any criminal complaint been filed?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes, two cases have been registered, one against the conductor and the driver and another against the offending passengers.

VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : அப்படிக் குறித்த நேரத்திற்குப் பஸ்கள் ஓடாததினால், அரசாங்கத்திற்கு எவ்வளவு பொருள் நஷ்டம் ஆகியிருக்கும் என்று அறியலாமா ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It was only non-peak hour traffic and I do not think there was great loss of revenue on that day.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI : Have two cases been registered, one against the staff and the other against the passengers?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI : How can both be wrong or right? (Laughter.)

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : As the conductors and the drivers did not go to their houses for rest and sleep, but stayed in the Police station itself, am I to understand that the two hours' rest given made them fit to commence their work again at 7 o'clock?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : In fact, they were allowed to wash and get ready and it was not given as rest.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI : Have the Government as such instituted any enquiry into the matter? No doubt, there is the Court to decide the cases instituted by the Police. The fact that the Police have filed two charge-sheets, one against the passengers and the other against the driver and the conductor, shows that the Government have left the whole matter in the hands of the Court. But the Government themselves have not made up their mind as to which side is wrong and which side is right. Such being the case,

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why should not the Government themselves institute an enquiry? It is really a serious matter which has taken place between the staff and the passengers . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. the Deputy Chairman should put a supplementary question.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I am sorry I am not able to oblige the hon. the Deputy Chairman with more information since it is now pending in Court.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : I concede that there have been no incidents, no major incidents so far between the conductors and the passengers so far as the Madras City Transport is concerned. It is a rare thing I should say. If it happened at all, it is mainly due to overcrowding in the buses. Therefore, will the Government solve the problem of overcrowding to prevent such incidents occurring in the future?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The incident occurred at about 9-45 p.m.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : People return home after attending cinemas at that time.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Really it is not possible for the Government to provide additional buses at 9-45 p.m.

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : As a result of the proceedings of the 2nd February, were there any accidents on the 3rd February?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : On the request made by the hon. Member, question No. 51 will be taken up to-morrow.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I have got the answer with me . . .

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : I wanted to invite the attention of the Government to a report appearing in a particular paper. I have not come prepared with that paper cutting. That is why I have asked for the postponement.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I know that and I can answer questions in respect of that also.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : If the Hon. Minister's attention has already been drawn to that, I have no objection to the question being taken up to-day.